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UNVEILING OF THE MONUMENT COMMEMORATING THE FOUNDATION OF THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION

The Universal Postal Union, which has now existed for thirty-five years, is, among all international organizations, that which most intimately affects the everyday life of people the world over. Quietly this great unifying institution has been working without a numerous staff of officials and unattended by the pomp of state. Yet the entire world has become conscious of its influence, and it was therefore befitting that at the time when the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Union was celebrated at Berne, the proposal should have been made and adopted to erect an artistic monument in honor of this great international work. The monument is a gift of all the governments who are members of the Postal Union. The plan was selected by a committee after an international competition, in which M. René de Saint Marceaux of Paris was successful. His beautiful work was unveiled on October 4 last, with imposing ceremonies.

The monument is both highly imaginative and, while representative of the idea of postal communication, full of artistic beauty. On a ledge of rock, at the foot of which flows a small spring emptying into a pond in which the whole monument is mirrored, there is seated the graceful figure of a woman whose outstretched arm and hand rest upon the escutcheon of the town of Berne. Both to the right and left of this figure lie masses of rock. Upon the summit of the highest of these, the sculptor has modelled a cloud, upbearing a globe. Five genii, representing the different parts of the world, are floating about this sphere, handing letters to each other. The sculptor has overcome great difficulties. From the above description it might seem that the monument would be lacking in unity and that, moreover, the portrayal of so light a substance as clouds by means of stone could hardly be successful. And yet, all this is forgotten when the monument itself is in view. The sculptor has triumphed, although he himself does not describe his work as sculpture, but as a picture in granite and bronze.

A notable gathering of representatives of all the powers cast lustre upon the occasion. Nations were represented both by diplomats and by members of cabinet and administrative officials. Mr. Brutus J. Clay, the American Minister in Switzerland, represented the United States. At the dedication of the monument and at the banquet given by the town council of Berne, a number of notable speeches were made. The

feeling which animates these discourses shows how strong a hold the idea of international cooperation has taken upon representative men. The spirit of the occasion was perhaps best expressed by M. Deucher, President of the Swiss Confederation. Among other things, he said:

Gentlemen, the old Assembly House of the Bernese Diet bears this inscription: "It is in this building that the Universal Postal Union was founded on October 9th, 1874." To-day, thirty-five years later, there rises on one of the most beautiful sites of our Capital, the grand commemorative Monument, the unveiling of which we are met to celebrate.

The five genii which surround the globe represent the universal importance of the Union and attest the power gained by a great idea, for the realization of which nations went hand in hand, regardless of the difference of race, language and religion, political and economic interests — a triumph of civilization and culture, a bond of union between the nations. The Universal Postal Union, a work supremely pacific, constitutes a real confederation of the nations, the representatives of which to-day turn their eyes to the international monument and express their gratitude to the master who created it.

THE NORWAY-SWEDEN BOUNDARY ARBITRATION

On October 23, 1909, the Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague decided the boundary dispute between Norway and Sweden, by virtue of a convention between the two Powers dated March 14, 1908. The tribunal was to be and actually was composed of three members of whom one was a Norwegian (M. Beichmann), another a Swede (M. de Hammarskjöld), and the third or president, who, by the agreement was to be "neither a subject of either of the contracting parties nor domiciled in either of the two countries," M. Loeff of Holland.

The tribunal, consisting of three members, was not constituted according to the terms of article 24 of the Hague Convention of 1899, which contemplates that the judges chosen shall be members of the permanent panel. The arbitration was, however, under the auspices of the Permanent Court, as the parties in controversy availed themselves of the provisions of article 26:

The International Bureau at The Hague is authorized to place its premises and its staff at the disposal of the Signatory Powers for the operations of any special Board of Arbitration.

It may, therefore properly be called a decision of the Permanent Court at The Hague and, as such, both enhances the dignity and demonstrates again the usefulness of this institution.